

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005896

FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, RD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FOR GOM ARMED FORCES

REFERENCE: MEXICO 0163

1. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE NEW APPROACHES IN GOM NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN WHICH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS ASSIGNED SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE MEXICAN ARMY AND NAVY. REFTEL PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO ASSIST THIS EFFORT.

2. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, WE PREFER FIRST TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE NEW INITIATIVE. WE HAVE IN MIND AMONG OTHER THINGS THE EFFECT THE NEW INITIATIVE MIGHT HAVE ON
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GOM INTER-MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRENT SUSTAINED EFFORT OF THE CAMPAIGN. ALSO, IF CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO FURNISHING MAJOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS TO THE MEXICAN MILITARY WHAT RISKS OF ITS UTILIZATION FOR NON NARCOTICS PURPOSES WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED. HERETOFORE, THE MILITARY HAS BEEN PROVIDED TRANSPORT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS NEEDED, WHICH HAS FACILITATED END

USE CONTROLS. AFTER RECEIVING THE INITIAL EMBASSY EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WE WILL BE ABLE BETTER TO CONSIDER HERE THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE AND DETERMINE WHAT

STEPS ARE NEEDED TO DEVELOP A MORE DETAILED STUDY CONCERNING ASSISTANCE.

3. QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN HERE INCLUDE: A) WHAT IS MEANT BY "OPERATIONAL PLAN" AND IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT SUCH AN APPROACH IS NEEDED OR DESIRED BY THE GOM? B) WHAT SENSITIVE ASPECTS INVOLVING MIXED DIRECTION AND PROGRAMS WITHIN THE GOM AND ITS POTENTIAL EFFECT ON EXISTING GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION PROGRAMS EXIST, E.G. WOULD THE EMBASSY BE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH GOM AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL? WOULD THE CURRENT MOMENTUM OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN BE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM INVOLVING THE ARMED FORCES; C) WOULD A LIMITED PROGRAM OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE BE A VIABLE APPROACH? HOW WOULD IT AFFECT THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF AN MFJP INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY? WHAT INTELLIGENCE BACKGROUND DO WE HAVE ON THE ARMY AND NAVY PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW GOM INITIATIVE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL? D) WHAT ARE THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR U.S. EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS? WHAT COULD BE EXPECTED ON DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT USE? WHAT LEVELS OF INTERDICTION EFFECTIVENESS CAN BE EXPECTED BY THE NEW GOM INITIATIVE; E) HOW SERIOUS ARE THE INTENTIONS OF THE GOM IN EXPANDING ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL ROLE? ARE EXISTING GOM RESOURCES CAPABLE OF NEW

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ASSIGNED TASK? ARE THE NEW INITIATIVES VIABLE FROM THE POLITICAL POINT-OF-VIEW BOTH WITHIN THE PRI AND BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS? F) WILL THE NEW INITIATIVE INCLUDE THE ASSIGNMENT OF LIAISON PERSONNEL FROM ARMY AND NAVY TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR COORDINATION?

4. WE REALIZE THAT SUBSTANTIVE AND DETAILED ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE AND PROBABLY WOULD REQUIRE SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION IN DEPTH. WE THINK THAT AN INITIAL COUNTRY TEAM EVALUATION ADDRESSING THE SALIENT POINTS OF THIS ENCOURAGING STEP BY THE GOM IS NEEDED BEFORE OPERATIONAL PLANS OR EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE DEVELOPED, AND PARTICULARLY BEFORE ANY DECISIONS WITH POTENTIAL LONG RANGE EFFECTS ARE TAKEN.

ROBINSON

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